

Construction Industry Profile in WSA 14 – Dakota County and Scott County

There were **1,472 construction establishments** providing **15,754 jobs** in Dakota and Scott counties during annual 2019, according to data from DEED's Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program. That is about **6.4% of total employment** in the region. The construction industry makes up **8.6% of the total payroll** in the region and its average annual wage sits at nearly \$76,600, which is 33.5% higher than the average annual wage across all industries (see Table 1).

Table 1. WSA 14 Industry Employment Statistics

NAICS Code	NAICS Industry Title	Number of Firms	Number of Jobs	Total Payroll	Avg. Annual Wage
0	Total, All Industries	13,960	245,673	\$13,908,860,058	\$56,615
23	Construction	1,472	15,754	\$1,190,706,471	\$75,581
238	Specialty Trade Contractors	1,022	10,173	\$715,088,804	\$70,293
237	Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	71	2,932	\$265,975,708	\$90,715
236	Construction of Buildings	380	2,648	\$209,641,959	\$79,170

Source: DEED Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

According to an [article](#) by Ron Wirtz of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis (2020), the current situation regarding the coronavirus outbreak has not only had immediate impacts on the construction industry, such as worker lay-offs, but also detrimental effects on future projects, such as project delays and negative effects on the demand for future projects. Of nearly 550 responses to a Federal Reserve construction survey completed in March, seven in 10 respondents had a notably optimistic outlook for 2020 before coronavirus. Since the impacts of COVID-19, more than eight in 10 had a pessimistic outlook for 2020. In construction's favor, Governor Tim Walz designated the industry essential, allowing firms to continue working rather than shutting down. Warming weather will also allow for safer working conditions as tarps will be pulled off work sites. Despite these positives, many construction firms simply mention uncertainty for the future.

With over 75,500 construction jobs, the Seven-County Metro Area accounts for over half (56.3%) of Minnesota's total construction employment. Specialty Trade Contractors accounts for nearly two-thirds (65.0%) of total construction employment in the region (see Table 2).

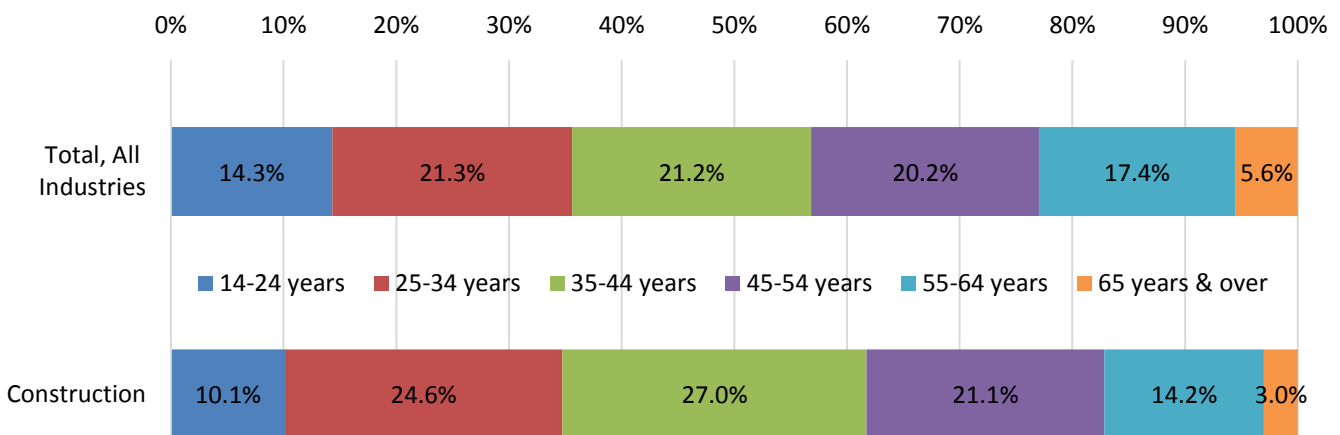
Table 2. Metro Area Employment Statistics, 2019

County	Total, All Industries		Construction		Construction of Buildings		Heavy & Civil Engineering Construction		Specialty Trade Contractors	
	Firms	Jobs	Firms	Jobs	Firms	Jobs	Firms	Jobs	Firms	Jobs
Anoka Co.	7,692	127,559	1,101	8,838	263	1,580	35	670	804	6,588
Carver Co.	2,549	40,487	335	2,646	75	614	16	360	244	1,671
Dakota Co.	10,556	190,960	972	10,468	260	1,541	46	1,684	667	7,243
Hennepin Co.	40,439	936,492	2,404	31,787	757	9,134	104	2,953	1,543	19,699
Ramsey Co.	14,021	334,680	800	12,238	246	2,356	27	1,331	527	8,550
Scott Co.	3,404	54,713	500	5,286	120	1,107	25	1,248	355	2,930
Washington Co.	5,973	88,186	572	4,298	157	837	30	1,058	385	2,403
Saint Paul	7,227	184,130	308	4,774	92	632	10	360	206	3,782
Minneapolis	12,702	335,334	479	7,652	171	2,433	16	1,602	293	3,616
Metro Area	84,632	1,773,078	6,683	75,561	1,877	17,170	282	9,306	4,524	49,085
Minnesota	178,242	2,900,290	16,934	134,248	4,799	28,867	1,268	23,625	10,868	81,755

Source: DEED Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

The distribution of workers in the construction industry sector is slightly older than for all other industries combined. As of annual 2019, nearly three-fourths (72.7%) of the construction workforce in Dakota and Scott counties was between 25 and 54 years of age, compared to 62.7 percent across all industries. However, a smaller share of construction workers were also in the oldest age groups in the region, with 17.2% being 55 years of age and over, compared to 23.0% in all industries (see Figure 1).

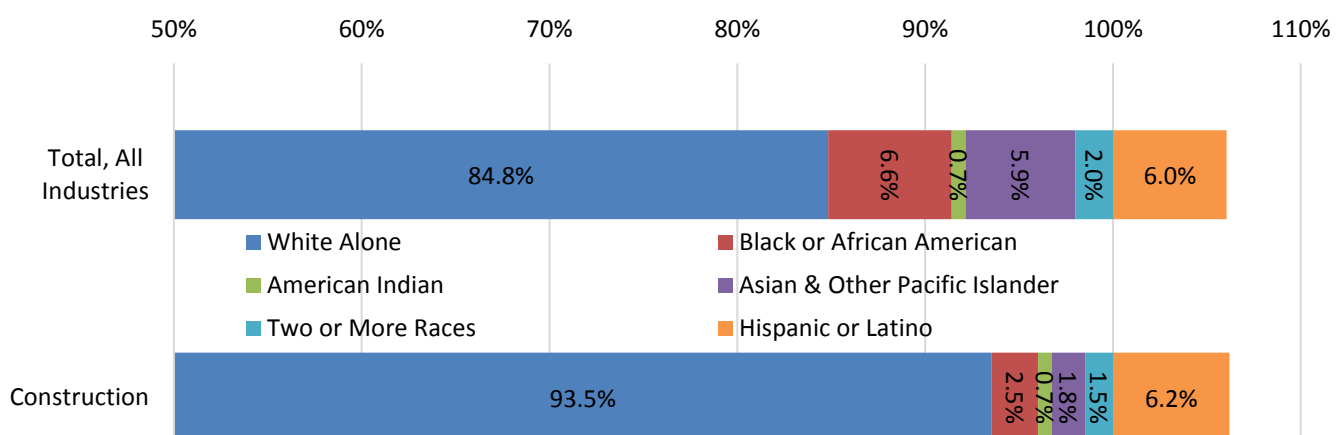
Figure 1. WSA 14 Workforce by Age Group, 2019



Source: Quarterly Workforce Indicators

Construction workers in Dakota and Scott counties were less racially diverse than the total of all industries combined, with 93.5% of all workers in construction being white, compared to 84.8 percent across all industries. The largest number of minority workers in construction in the region were of Hispanic or Latino origin (see Figure 2 – *please note that the numbers add up to more than 100% because Hispanic or Latino is an ethnicity rather than a race*).

Figure 2. WSA 14 Workforce by Race or Origin, 2019



Source: Quarterly Workforce Indicators

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